

Application No.: 10/077,853

Docket No.: 30007315-2 US (1509-281)

**REMARKS**

Applicant notes there is no consideration in the Office Action of independent claim 16, submitted with the preliminary amendment filed with the application. Consideration of claim 16 in the next office action is requested, if applicable.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-15 as being anticipated by Stefik et al., USP 5,629,980.

In rejecting claim 1, the office action alleges Stefik et al., in Figure 1 and column 7, lines 5-37, discloses a controller arranged to vary access to a service over a connection in response to a change in status of a digital credential. The Office Action explains that the first and second nodes of claim 1 are respectively repository 1 and repository 2 of Stefik et al. The Office Action also explains that the digital credential is the digital usage rights which are attached to the digital work and that the controller is a program mechanism in repository 1 that "checks usage rights to determine if access may be granted." However, the Office Action fails to indicate where or how Stefik et al. discloses a controller that is arranged to vary access to a service over a connection in response to a change in status of a digital credential. The Office Action includes a vague reference to Figures 15 and 18 of Stefik et al. Consideration of these figures does not result in the disclosure of a controller arranged to vary access to a service over a connection in response to a change in status of a digital credential. If the Examiner adheres to this rejection, he is requested to explain how Stefik et al. discloses a controller arranged to vary access to a service over a connection in response to a change on status of a digital credential.

Claims 2-7 depend on claim 1 and are allowable therewith.

**Application No.: 10/077,853****Docket No.: 30007315-2 US (1509-281)**

The Office Action alleges Stefik et al. discloses the requirement of claim 7 for a monitoring arrangement for monitoring a digital register for changes in the status of a digital credential, wherein the controller of claim 1 is responsive to the monitoring arrangement for varying access to the service in response to a change in status of the digital credential. The Office Action refers to column 11, line 30-column 12, line 40 of Stefik et al. for this feature. However, consideration of column 11, line 30-column 12, line 40 of Stefik et al. fails to provide any mention of a monitoring arrangement, a digital register or a controller adapted to be responsive to a monitoring arrangement for varying access to a service in response a change in status of a digital credential. Explanation is requested, if the Examiner adheres to this rejection.

The Office Action alleges claim 8 is similar to claim 1 and is rejected for the same reasons. Applicant notes claim 8 is directed to a computer node for providing a service to a second computer node by a connection over a network, rather than a computer system. The computer node of claim 8 is required to include a controller for determining access to a service that is provided to the computer node based on a digital credential associated with a connection of the computer node to a second computer node. The controller is arranged to vary access to the service provided by the computer node over the connection in response to a change in status of the digital credential that is associated with the connection. The Examiner is requested to specifically indicate how Stefik et al. discloses such a computer node.

Claims 9-11 depend on claim 8 and are allowable therewith.

The Office Action alleges independent claims 12-14 are substantially similar to claim 1 and are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1. Applicant notes that claim 12 is directed to a controller for determining access to a service, and not to a computer system. The Examiner is requested to indicate how Stefik et al. discloses a controller that is arranged to vary access to a service provided

**Application No.: 10/077,853****Docket No.: 30007315-2 US (1509-281)**

by a first computer node to a second computer node over a connection via a network in response to a change in status of a digital credential associated with the connection.

Claim 13 is directed to a method of providing a service wherein access to the service over a connection between a first computer node and a second computer node via a network is varied in response to a change in status of a digital credential upon which access to the service that is provided by the first computer node for the second computer node occurs. The Examiner is requested to indicate how Stefik et al. discloses these elements.

Claim 14 is concerned with a computer system included in a first computer node coupled to a network, wherein the first node is arranged to provide a service to a second computer node via a connection over a network. A controller determines access to the service the first node provides to the second node based on a digital credential associate with the connection. The first node has a memory for storing the digital credential associated with the connection over the network through which the first node provides a service to the second node. The first node is also required to include a display for presenting to a user information associated with the digital credential. Hence, claim 14 is quite different from claim 1 and the Examiner is requested to explain how and where Stefik et al. discloses the foregoing requirements of claim 14.

Claim 15 depends on claim 14 and is allowable therewith.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and deemed in order.

**Application No.: 10/077,853****Docket No.: 30007315-2 US (1509-281)**

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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